



THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

Volume 2, Issue 21

October 2010

Inside this issue:

Constitutional Amendments	1
Chinese Drywall	2
Derelict Boat Removal	2
United Way Day of Caring	2

Vero Beach Office:

1053 20th Place
Vero Beach, FL 32960
(772) 778-5077

Tallahassee Office:

317 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 488-0952

Toll Free Numbers:

Phone – (866) 857-7289
Fax – (888) 544-0393



Florida's Old and New Capitols

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS



With the general election fast approaching, my office has received many calls from constituents asking about the constitutional amendments that will appear on the ballot on November 2. I wanted to take this opportunity to give you a brief description of each amendment and what it would do. For more information, I encourage you to visit the 2010 Florida Amendments Home Page created by the Collins Center at:

http://www.collinscenter.org/page/FL_Amend_Home.

The Collins Center is a statewide nonprofit organization that provides complete, non-partisan information about the amendment proposals you'll see in 2010.

Amendment 1: Repeal of public campaign financing requirement

What it would do: End taxpayer financing of political campaigns.

Amendment 2: Homestead ad valorem tax credit for deployed military personnel

What it would do: Instruct the Legislature to enact an additional homestead exemption for Florida homeowners on active military service outside the country. The size of the tax break would be based on the amount of time served overseas in the previous year.

Amendment 4: Referenda required for adoption and amendment of local government comprehensive land use plans

What it would do: Require voters to approve any and all changes to a local government's comprehensive land use plan, even minor and technical changes. Opponents argue that ballots would be long and involved, while economic development would grind to a halt and the state would remain mired in recession.

Amendment 5 & 6: Standards for Legislature to follow in legislative and congressional redistricting

What it would do: Require that legislative and congressional districts not be drawn to favor one political party over another. Opponents argue that the redistricting process is extremely complicated, and abiding by the amendments would be difficult and could lead to a flurry of lawsuits. Additionally, these amendments could reduce minority representation.

Amendment 8: Revision of the class size requirements for public schools

What it would do: Allow class sizes to be calculated at the school-wide average instead of the individual classroom level, thereby giving schools some flexibility while maintaining class size requirements.

Nonbinding Resolution on Federal Deficit

This resolution simply asks whether voters support a constitutional requirement that the federal government balance its budget.

Should you have any state constituent issues, please do not hesitate to contact Sandi Harpring in my Vero Beach office at (772) 778-5077.

CLICK LOGOS BELOW



Technology Corner:

Follow me on twitter by clicking on the logo



Session Live:

You can follow daily events in the House of Representatives at www.myfloridahouse.gov.

Join me on facebook by clicking the following logo



CHINESE DRYWALL

Imported Drywall

The IRS has issued guidance providing relief to homeowners who have suffered property losses due to the effects of certain imported drywall installed in homes between 2001 and 2009.

The policy enables affected individuals who pay to repair damage resulting from corrosive drywall to treat the amount paid as a casualty loss in the year of payment. For tax returns filed in previous years, taxpayers generally have three years to file an amended return and claim the deduction.

For more information, please visit and review the Florida Department of Health's Imported Drywall page by clicking the "Imported Drywall" logo above.

DERELICT BARGE REMOVAL

On August 17th I received an email from constituents who reside on Indian River Drive in Ft. Pierce. The email was an inquiry regarding the status of a barge stuck on a sea grass bed on the Indian River. The email stated "we contacted EPA, DEP, FWC, Marine Patrol, Coast Guard, and every other governmental agency to no avail".

After reviewing the situation with my staff we immediately contacted the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Florida Fish and Wildlife and the agencies were able to work together with local agencies to have the barge towed on September 22nd. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has advised that they are actively pursuing enforcement against the vessel owner.



Barge passing under Jensen Beach Causeway being moved by Tow Boat US

UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING



Over 300 volunteers from 22 leading businesses gathered on Saturday, October 2nd for the United Way's Day of Caring. I had the pleasure of working with a great group at the Abilities Resource Center of Indian River County. Volunteers arrived in the morning and worked in various landscaping jobs to spruce up the facility.